

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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On the afternoon of Friday, December 5, Room 240 in the main agricultural engineering building was no longer a lecture room. It was transformed into a winter fairyland for the now traditional Department Christmas Party. Dr. Egil Berge, visiting professor from Norway, provided accordin music of the Christmas season from his country. This was followed by group singing of old-time Christmas favorites. A pinata was provided by one of the wives. (Supposedly she remains anonymous, but several know the identity of this lovely, gracious lady.) As the children struck the pinata, their expressions were of joy anticipation--the real wonder of Christmas.

(NEAR RIGHT) This is Brian Nave as he looked upward at the pinata. His eyes seem to say, "Jeepers, kids look at me." Brian is the younger son of Professor and Mrs. W. Ralph Nave.



(FAR RIGHT) The older children were blindfolded. This is Linda Mitchell taking a healthy whack at the pinata. Linda is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. Kent Mitchell.



The planning and arrangements for the party were handled by a committee from the Agricultural Engineering Wives Group chaired by Ruth Curtis, with assistance from Rose Andrew, Lorennie Bateman, Turbid Berge, Peggy Dickey, Donna Jedele, Carol Scarborough, and Agnes Shawl.

ALUMNI NEWS

J. Neil Stevens '70 is presently located at 83 Autumn Lane, Enola, Pennsylvania 17025. Neil is with an engineering firm in Harrisburgh, Pennsylvania. He has a primary interest in the development of flood-plain insurance plans for 63 communities in that state.

Dr. William Brixius '73 reports a home address change, prompted by a street renaming program: 8026 54th Street Court, Coal Valley, Illinois 61240.

Dr. William E. Larsen '68, Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Montana State University, is the author of Extension Circular 1146 "Procedures for Calibration of Sprayers and Mixing of Spray Chemicals."

On the inside back cover of the 1975 *Agricultural Engineers Yearbook* is a picture of a group of executive and engineering personnel of the Firestone Electric Wheel Company in Quincy. Included is W.T. "Bill" Anniss '70, sales engineer.

These graduates recently completed their professional engineer license requirements: Mr. Manu Naik '63, State of Ohio and B.R. Tennes, '63, State of Michigan.

Ralph W. Summers '71 reports an address change: 5212 Switzer, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66203.

Robert F. "Bob" Skelton '38 died at his home in Bluffton, Indiana, on November 2. Bob held two degrees from the University of Illinois: a B.S. in agricultural engineering and an M.S. with a major in theoretical and applied mechanics. He had a long and most-productive career in education, business, and professional engineering endeavors. His pioneering work in the area of long-time, low-labor-requirement feed processing and distribution using electrical energy brought him widespread recognition. Bob is survived by his wife Marion, who continues to reside in Bluffton (1126 Wildwood Lane, Bluffton, Indiana 46714); a son, Robert F., Jr., living in Washington, D.C. and employed by the U.S. Secret Service; and a daughter, Suzanne F., who will graduate from the University of Indiana in May.

Owen P. Lee '64 have been transferred to the Northeast Technical Service Center, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1974 Sproul Road, Broomall, Pennsylvania 19008. In a recent letter, Owen wrote " . . . providing hydrology assistance to 12 northeastern states and Puerto Rico. The National Weather Service is doing a study for the SCS concerning short-duration rainfall intensities. I coauthored a paper with two gentlemen from NWS which described the results of the study, and we presented it at the November ASCE Meeting in Denver."

John C. Tunnel '67 and '73, is located at Suffolk, Virginia, where he has supervised the construction of and manages a peanut-shell grinding and classification plant. John describes Suffolk as the "worlds largest peanut market." He further explains that ground peanut shells make an excellent substitute in many industrial processes for ground corn cobs. In his very interesting letter-report, he states: "We process 120 tons of shells per 2 shift day and have the capacity of 200 tons per day." John and Mrs. Tunnel (Marge) make their home at 5205 Bennetts Pasture Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23435.

Professor Wendell Bowers '48 and '56, was a participant in the 28th Illinois Custom Spray Operators' Training School, held on Campus, January 7-8. He presented two papers: "Equipment for Static Testing of Aircraft Sprayer Systems" and Evaluation of Mist Blowers in Weed and Brush Control." Wendell is professor of agricultural engineering at Oklahoma State University and heads the agricultural engineering program in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lanham spoke before the Illinois Retail Farm Equipment Association at the annual meeting of the organization held at the Arlington Heights Hilton, December 2-4. His topic was "Heritage and Horizons." The meeting marked the retirement of Charles A. "Chuck" Snavelly as Executive Vice-President of the Association after more than 20 years of dedicated service. Chuck and Mrs. Snavelly (Helen) have moved to Valdosta, Georgia, where they will make their retirement home.

Dr. G.C. Shove will be a participant in the 1975-76 Lecture Program, Northern Regional Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, in Peoria. On March 4, he is scheduled for two lectures: "Systems and Facilities for Drying Grain" and "Energy Alternatives for Conditioning Grain." The following day, he will discuss the "Application of Solar Energy to Grain Drying."

Professor J.A. Weber is scheduled to teach Agricultural Engineering 446 "Dynamics of Tillage, Traction and Earth Moving" at the Proving Ground of the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, during the spring semester.

Last fall, the cooperative research project "An Evaluation of Research on Improved Equipment for Harvesting and Handling Soybeans" was studied as a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Program Evaluation System. The study is a cooperative effort between the Agricultural Research Service, USDA and The Department of Agricultural Engineering, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. Professor W. Ralph Nave '63 is the principal investigator representing the Agricultural Research Service. The Department and Station are represented by a number of academic staff members. One paragraph in the final report is as follows:

The report presents a very convincing case for research. It describes the new knowledge and technology developed under a precisely prescribed Technological Objective in a former Research Activity and then measures its impact on the economic problem addressed by the Technological Objective--the saving of formerly lost soybeans. The report estimates a return of about \$490 million dollars by 1980 on an ARS investment of \$580 thousand.

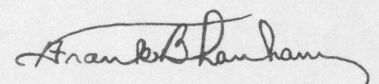
On October 15-16, Professor A.J. Muehling '50 participated in a panel discussion at a "Swine Facilities Symposium" in Des Moines sponsored by the National Pork Producers Association. Approximately 400 pork producers, industry personnel, and university representatives were in attendance. Muehling served on a panel fielding questions relating to the place of housing in efficient, profitable swine production.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

As a money-making project, the Illinois Student Branch of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers is selling the book *The Agricultural Tractor 1855-1950* by R.B. Gray. Published by the Society, the book of more than 150 pages is profusely illustrated and carefully indexed. The book is available through the Department at \$11.95 per copy, and the students would appreciate patronage.

The officers and advisors for the Illini Ag Mech Club for the spring semester are:

President	William F. Olin, Alexis
Vice-President	Charles W. Alexander, Monticello
Secretary	John T. Doyle, Palos Park
Treasurer	Michael K. Wettstein, Metamora
Reporter	Randall J. Kocher, Dundas
Agriculture Council Representative	David W. Larson, Maple Park
Advisor	Dr. Gene C. Shove
Assistant Advisor	Dr. Donnell R. Hunt


Frank B. Lanham